

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF SEVENOAKS

Annual Report

of the
Medical Officer of Health
for
1943

together with the
Report of the Sanitary Inspector

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Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1943 on the Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics of the Sevenoaks Urban District by the Medical Officer of Health Together with the Report of the Sanitary Inspector

Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

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P. N. CAVE, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

W. J. GYPPS, C.R.S.I.

Health Visitor:

Mrs. J. WOODHAMS.

Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1943

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Health Report for the year 1943, this being the twenty-first Report submitted by me as your Medical Officer of Health.

The Report, which is again curtailed, contains only such essential features as it is necessary to record.

The population of the District as estimated by the Registrar-General at mid-year 1943 is 13,040, as compared with 13,370 last year.

There was a slight decrease in the Birth Rate, this being equal to 15·0 per thousand of population, as compared with 17·3 last year.

An increase also took place in the Death Rate, this being 12·8 per thousand of population, as against 9·8 last year.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the District was 51 per thousand births, as compared with 47 last year.

The year was a satisfactory one from the point of view of incidence of Infectious Disease, the number of notification certificates received being 150, as against 115 last year. This increase is mainly due to a larger number of cases of Measles being notified.

In presenting this Report, I desire to thank the Council and its Officers for the help and assistance I have received from them. I also wish to place on record my appreciation of the loyal and efficient services rendered by Mr. Gypps and the Health Visitor.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. N. CAVE,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	3,720
Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1943	13,040
Number of occupied houses, December, 1943 ...	4,374
Rateable Value of District	£167,131
Sum represented by a penny rate	£670

SECTION B.—VITAL STATISTICS.

				Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population.
Live Births:	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	182	95	87	
Illegitimate	14	6	8	
Total Births	196	101	95	15·0
				Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births.
Stillbirths	5	4	1	24·8
				Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population.
Deaths	167	79	88	12·8
				Deaths. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Deaths from puerperal causes:				
Puerperal Sepsis		Nil		—
Other puerperal causes		Nil		—
Total		Nil		—
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:				
All infants per 1,000 live births				51
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				54
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)				15
do. Measles (all ages)				Nil
do. Whooping Cough (all ages)				Nil
do. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...				2

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—During the year 196 Births were registered as belonging to the District, of which number 101 were males and 95 were females. The Birth Rate for the year was equal to 15·0 per thousand of population, as compared with 17·3 last year.

Deaths.—The number of Deaths registered during the year was 167 (79 males and 88 females). This gives a Death Rate of 12·8 per thousand of population, as against 9·8 last year.

Infantile Mortality.—During the year 10 deaths were registered as occurring in infants under one year of age. All of these were legitimate. The Infantile Mortality Rate for the year was equal to 51 per thousand registered births, as compared with 47 last year.

	Sevenoaks Urban District.	England and Wales.
Birth Rate	15·0	16·5
Death Rate	12·8	12·1
Infantile Mortality Rate ...	51	49

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following Table shows the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified, together with the number removed to hospital, and the total deaths:—

Disease	Number Notified	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	16	12	...
Diphtheria... ..	18	18	2
Erysipelas	2	...	...
Pneumonia	1	...	9*
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	...
Acute Polioencephalitis	1	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	6	...	...
Measles	105	...	...
TOTALS	150	31	11

*all forms of pneumonia

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC.

The following work has been done in connection with the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic:—

Number of new cases treated	470
Number of attendances made	960

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1943.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000, 1931 Census	London Administrative County	Sevenoaks Urban District
*Rates per 1,000 Population					
BIRTHS:					
Live	16.5	18.6	19.4	15.8	15.0
Still	0.5	0.63	0.61	0.45	0.38
DEATHS:					
All Causes	12.1	14.2	12.7	15.0	12.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	—
Diphtheria	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.07
Influenza	0.37	0.36	0.37	0.27	0.15
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	—
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
Deaths under one year of age	49	58	46	58	51
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age	5.3	7.9	4.4	10.4	10.0
*Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population					
NOTIFICATIONS.					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.09	0.07
Scarlet Fever	3.01	3.29	3.54	3.80	1.22
Whooping Cough	2.54	2.82	2.25	2.68	0.46
Diphtheria	0.88	1.12	0.77	0.74	1.38
Erysipelas	0.31	0.35	0.27	0.42	0.15
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	9.88	9.23	9.77	9.17	8.05
Pneumonia	1.34	1.62	1.16	1.27	0.07
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)					
NOTIFICATIONS:					
Puerperal Fever	} 11.68	15.11	9.26	} 3.05 15.23	NIL
Puerperal Pyrexia					

*A dash — signifies that there were no Deaths

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified, together with the number of deaths registered:—

	Notified			Deaths		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	5	2	7	4	1	5
Non-Pulmonary	1	3	4	1	1	2
Totals	6	5	11	5	2	7

The Kent County Council carries out the treatment for cases of Tuberculosis, and during the year the following number of patients from this District have received treatment:—

Patients receiving sanatorium treatment	13
Patients receiving dispensary treatment	13
Dispensary supervision only	29

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 176.

No action under the above was required to be taken during the year.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The following number of cases of Infectious Disease were admitted to the Isolation Hospital during the year:—

	Sevenoaks Urban District.	Sevenoaks Rural District.	Military Cases.
Diphtheria and ? Diphtheria ...	20	28	25
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	2	—	—
Typhoid Fever ...	1	2	—
Measles ...	—	—	5
German Measles ...	—	—	8
Chicken-pox ...	—	—	3
Mumps ...	—	5	5
Enteritis ...	1	—	—

LABORATORY WORK.

The bacteriological work in connection with this District is carried out at the County Laboratory, Maidstone, and during the year the following number of specimens from this District have been examined there:—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Swabs for Diphtheria... ..	5	50	55
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	3	—	3
Sputum for Tubercle	5	1	6
Faeces for Dysentery	1	—	1
Totals ...	14	51	65

DRAINAGE.

No important changes took place during the year in the drainage of the District.

SANITARY STATISTICS.

No. of Houses connected to the sewer	No. of Houses not connected to the sewer	No. of Houses not provided with a piped water supply	No. of wells still in use for purpose of water supply
3859	144	Nil	Nil

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

W.C.s	Pan or Pail Closets	Privy Middens	Ashpits separate from Privy Middens	Cesspools	
				No. of	No. of houses into
5789	5	2	3	133	140

WATER SUPPLY.

No extensions of the water mains were carried out during the year.

During the year 12 samples of the domestic water supply were submitted for bacteriological examination, and in each case the result was satisfactory.

In addition, the Sevenoaks Waterworks Company have forwarded 12 reports upon samples taken in the District and submitted to their own Analyst. All were satisfactory.

HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

- | | | |
|---------|---|-----|
| (1) (a) | Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 13 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 30 |
| (2) (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | Nil |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | Nil |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 11 |

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 11

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936: | |
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: | |
| (a) | By owners | Nil |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |
| (b) | Proceedings under the Public Health Acts: | |
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 11 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices: | |
| (a) | By owners | 11 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |
| (c) | Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936: | |
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil |

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV: Overcrowding.

- (a) (i) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of year ... } No
 (ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... } accurate
 (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... } details
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year ... 1
 (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 4
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which you may consider it desirable to report.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
By other persons	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION.

No important alterations were made either in the method of collection or disposal of house refuse during the year.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

The contents of cesspools are emptied by the Council on the request of the occupiers of the premises concerned.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Maternity and Child Welfare work in this District is under the control of the District Council.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year 1943:—

Ante-natal Clinic.

Number of sessions held	24
Total attendance	348
Average attendance per session	16

Child Welfare Centre.

Number of names on register:

	Residents.	Evacuees.
Mothers	340	14
Children	550	14
Number of attendances:		
Mothers		4,940
Children		5,074
Number of sessions held		74
Average attendance per session		72

SUNLIGHT TREATMENT.

During the year 65 sessions were held, at which 1,415 treatments were given to 58 children.

FREE AND ASSISTED SUPPLY OF MILK.

All milk is now supplied under the National Milk Scheme.

NURSING AND MATERNITY HOMES.

The County Council has delegated to the District Council the powers under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to Nursing and Maternity Homes.

There are 4 registered premises within the District, the number of beds available being 8 for maternity cases and 33 for other cases.

HEALTH VISITOR.

The Council employs one full-time Health Visitor, who works under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

During the year she has paid the following number of visits:—

Primary	180
Revisits	1,090
Visits re Infectious Disease	—
Visits re Diphtheria Immunisation	240
Miscellaneous visits	208
Total	1,718

SCHOOLS.

There are 4 elementary schools within the District.

VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

I again desire to place on record my high appreciation of the work done during the year under review by the voluntary workers of the Sevenoaks Mothers and Babies Welfare.

Under war-time conditions this work, always one of great importance, assumes an even more outstanding position. To the successful carrying out of the multifarious duties involved by this work, the help of the voluntary workers has been of inestimable value, and I again, as in previous years, wish to place on record my high appreciation of their outstanding and unwearying work.

SUMMARY OF REGULATED TRADES.

	Number of Premises	Visits Paid	Defects.	
			Found.	Remedied.
Dairies	7	156	5	5
Cowsheds	1	31	1	1
Slaughterhouses :	2	522	3	3
Bakehouses	7	68	1	1
Piggeries	—	—	—	—
Other food preparing places	32	228	3	3
Factories & Workshops &c. ...	62	54	2	2
Workshops	—	—	—	—
Workplaces	—	—	—	—
Houses Let in Lodgings	—	—	—	—
Common Lodging Houses...				
Totals	111	1059	15	15

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

The following number of licences were granted by the Council during the year:—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pasteurisers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

MILK SUPPLY.

During the year 25 samples of milk were submitted for examination, consisting of:—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ordinary	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

In addition, 12 samples were collected from the Isolation Hospital supply.

MEAT—CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

The following Table shows the work done in connection with the slaughtering of animals for human consumption:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	879	462	586	7842	629
Number inspected ...	879	462	586	3921	629
All diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	1	...	7	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	18	3	...	2	13
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	2.167	0.875	...	0.229	2.066
Tuberculosis Only:—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	14	...	...	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	14	1	...	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	0.455	6.233	0.17	...	1.112

SHOPS ACT.

During the year 79 inspections of shops were made, and on 3 occasions minor contraventions were found, all of which were dealt with.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is one public swimming bath in the District, the water passing through a continuous filtration plant.

Three samples of the water were submitted for bacteriological examination, and the result in each case was satisfactory.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the year the following number of houses were found to be infested:—

Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Disinfestation was carried out by means of zaldecide spraying and fumigation by sulphur.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings to enforce the abatement of nuisances.

ADOPTIVE ACTS AND BYE-LAWS.

No Acts or Bye-laws were adopted during the year.

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1943.

Disease	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid Fever, etc.	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever... ..	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	1	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	1	5
Other tuberculous diseases	1	1	2
Syphilis	2	...	2
Influenza	1	1	2
Measles	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...
Acute Infantile Encephalitis ...	1	...	1
Cancer of Bronchial Cavity ...	1	1	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2
Cancer of the Breast	...	3	3
Cancer, all other forms	4	4	8
Diabetes	...	1	1
Intra cranial vasc. lesions	7	16	23
Heart diseases	20	27	47
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	2	4
Bronchitis	7	7	14
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	4	9
Other respiratory diseases	1	2	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	...	2
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ...	1	1	2
Appendicitis	...	1	1
Other digestive diseases	1	5	6
Nephritis	3	...	3
Post and post-abortion. sepsis ...	...	...	...
Other maternal causes	...	...	...
Premature Birth	...	...	...
Congenital malformation and birth injury	2	2	4
Suicide	2	...	2
Road accidents	...	...	...
Other violent causes	4	1	5
All other causes	7	6	13
TOTALS	79	88	167

Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices,
Argyle Road,
Sevenoaks.

Ladies and Gentlemen, 1943.

I have the honour of presenting to you a summary of the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year 1943.

General Inspections.

The routine inspections of the District have been maintained as circumstances have allowed, and special attention has been paid at all times to registered premises under the Milk and Dairies Order, and food preparing places.

A number of properties in the town are still in the occupation of His Majesty's Forces, and, on the whole, these are being maintained in a very satisfactory condition. Where defects have occurred I have contacted the D.C.R.E., whose office is in the town, and all matters have been promptly dealt with and several improvements have been carried out.

All the defects detected during the year have been dealt with by informal action and it has not been necessary to serve any Statutory Notices. There are many houses in the town in the occupation of more than one family, and only in three cases has the question of bugs arisen. These were promptly dealt with by spraying, fumigation and steam disinfection, and the trouble quickly eliminated.

During the year 39 fumigations were carried out by the Public Health Department following infectious disease or at the request of residents, and in addition 50 batches of bedding, etc., were removed to the Council's Isolation Hospital, Oak Lane, for steam disinfection.

Milk Supplies.

The milk supply of the District has, in spite of war-time difficulties, been maintained in a very satisfactory condition, and the reports on many of the samples taken have actually been better than those of pre-war. The bulk of the supply continues to be delivered to consumers in bottles, and samples have been taken approximately monthly. There is one modern Pasteurising Plant in the area, and one farm at which Accredited milk is produced. A total of 187 visits were paid to premises registered under the Milk and Dairies Order during the year, and six minor defects discovered were dealt with.

Twenty-five samples of milk were taken in the area and submitted to the County Laboratories, Maidstone, for examination. These consisted of:—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ordinary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

In addition, 12 samples of the milk supply to the Council's Isolation Hospital were taken for chemical examinations during the year, and the County Analyst reports that these were satisfactory.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 8 Dealers' Licences were issued for the sale of Designated Milk, and in addition one Pasteurisers' Licence was also issued.

Drainage.

There have been no extensions to the main sewerage system of the District or to the surface water sewers during the year. Eighty-six defects relating to the cleansing of drains were dealt with during the year.

Water Supplies.

No complaints were received during the year in connection with the domestic water supply of the town. Twelve samples from the domestic supply were taken; these were submitted for bacteriological examination and the reports were all satisfactory.

In addition to the above, copies of 12 reports were received from the Sevenoaks Waterworks Company upon samples taken and submitted to their own Analyst.

No complaints were received during the year concerning the water supply of the Public Swimming Baths, owned by the Council, in Eardley Road, Sevenoaks. During the season 3 samples were taken of this water and submitted for examination, and the reports were all satisfactory.

Infestation Order, 1943.

As directed by the Council, a survey of the premises in the Urban area was completed during the year for the purpose of detecting the presence of rats and mice. The result of the survey revealed that—

- (1) there is no infestation to be classed under the heading of “ Reservoir ” or “ Major Primary type ”;
- (2) in many cases small infestations were found, but these appear to be intermittent in character with no real permanence.

A detailed report was submitted to your Council and this has been forwarded to the Ministry of Food, and steps are being taken to implement the direction served upon your Council pursuant of Article 5 of the Order.

Slaughterhouses, Meat and Food Inspections.

I have continued to give special attention to all the food preparing places in the area, and the two slaughterhouses taken over by the Ministry of Food for the slaughtering of animals have been regularly used. These have been conducted satisfactorily; minor improvements have been carried out, and close co-operation exists between my Department and the manager of the slaughterhouses appointed by the Ministry of Food. A total of 522 visits were paid to these slaughterhouses during the year, and the animals slaughtered in them were allocated to the Sevenoaks Urban and Rural areas, together with other districts as required by the Ministry of Food.

The following is a table showing the number of animals slaughtered and inspected in the two slaughterhouses during the year:—

Cattle	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	879
Cows	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	462
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	586
Sheep	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,842
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	629

During the year 9 tons 8 cwts. 34 lbs. of meat was condemned at the Government slaughterhouses; this is properly recorded and dealt with under the salvage scheme of the Ministry of Food. In addition, 6 cwts. 62 lbs. 14 oz. of other foodstuffs was also surrendered as unfit for human consumption from the various food places in the town and allocated to salvage.

General.

A.R.P. work and the work under the Coal Distribution Order, 1943, under which I act as Local Fuel Overseer for the Council, have again claimed much time. The work under the latter Order continues to increase, and in conclusion I would like to record my best thanks to the staff in my Department, who have worked extremely hard during the year.

Summary.

In accordance with the Sanitary Officers Order, I give below the number and nature of inspections carried out during the year:—

Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	187
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Factory Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Nuisances and drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Slaughterhouses and Food Preparing Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	750
Shops Acts Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	161
Total								1,457
Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. J. GYPPOS,

Sanitary Inspector.

